MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, South*): Sir, what about the scarcity of money?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*); I am just now trying to emphasise that if, say, you have got a bond for Rs. 100, it is today worth exactly Rs 100 or even more and therefore there is no reason in the complaint that a 5 per cent rate is too much for the court fee in money suits. The next question raised by Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai is where the money is to come from for the purpose of paying court fee. The answer is that the money has come as a matter of fact, we can see that it *has* come.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether it has really come or whether it was not squeezed out of the people?

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): In any case there is the money and money has come. But there may be some difficulty for making up the money. That, however, cannot be helped. We have to pay with reference to the claim made in the suit. The difficulty is not, however, very substantial for clearly it has been overcome and the suits have been filed. The figure shows that.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I must now ask the official member to stop. It is now 3·30 and it is time for the adjournment motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know whether this motion can be put to vote?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No; the time has expired.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Sir, I move for the adjournment of the business of the House to consider a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the serious situation created by the outbreak of malaria in the taluks of Neyyattinkara, Vilavankod and Nedumangad, a second time, and that in a more virulent form.

I do not think it is necessary for me to detail the circumstances under which this epidemic raised its head in these taluks, because that is a matter which has been once discussed in this House at its last session and also in the other House at its last meeting. Sir, the same subject formed the subject-matter of an adjournment motion both in this House and in the Council. I would certainly not have ventured to bring forward this adjournment motion at the fag end of the session, but for the fact that, this time, the epidemic has taken a menacing turn.

During the middle of this year, *i. e.*, in Makaram, the inhabitants of about a hundred square miles of our country fell a victim to this disease. Now, it has taken a worse turn just when the Public Health authorities have withdrawn their men from the relief operation centres. On the last occasion, prompt action was taken by the Government

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and the Public Health Department immediately appeared on the scene, established treatment centres and did very good work though within the limited scope of their operations. They were really very helpful to the suffering patients. In Neyyattinkara itself, on the last occasion, the number of patients under treatment was so high as thirty thousand. In Nedumangad alone there were more than ten thousand patients. And in Vilavankod, there was an equally large number. The authorities of the Public Health Department very soon found out that what was more important than the distribution and administering of quinine to the patients was the necessity to distribute provisions; because it was clear that it was their dire poverty that made the patients so easily susceptible to disease. Government were good enough to sanction Rs. 4,000 for distribution of rice. Though this amount was too small to meet the requirements of the situation, the non-officials formed themselves into committees and collected subscriptions from the generous public, both official and non-official, to supplement the same. After some time we were glad to find that, as a result of the operations of the Public Health Department and the relief measures adopted by them and by the non-official agency, there was a decline in the number of attacks and practically fewer deaths. Towards the close of the last month, the Public Health authorities withdrew from the scene of operations. When they withdrew, through one of their bulletins they had given us the warning that there might be relapses as soon as the monsoon broke out and that we should not be alarmed at such relapses, since with heavier rains we might be rid of the disease. We know, Sir, what sort of monsoon we had this year. It is conspicuous by its absence. We had an unprecedented drought, and the people are sinking in misery. Whatever the public health bulletin might say, the fact remains that from the beginning of this month there has been a terrible recrudescence of the disease. There are thousands of cases of relapses and even more of fresh attacks. And, this time there are very many complications also in the disease. In many cases, for instance, malaria has developed into dropsy. This is a time, Sir, when the poor patients are in need of very careful and very efficient medical aid But, the fact is that these helpless patients are now practically uncared for. When the Public Health department was on the scene, these poor patients had at least the consolation that they got some quinine. Now, they are even without that. They have now to go seven or eight miles off to hospitals or dispensaries for medical aid. They are absolutely helpless. And, in most cases, whole families are down so that there is none available to secure aid or to give information of the illness. From my personal enquiry, I understand, Sir, that the number of attacks this time is far higher than even what it was when the attack was at its height last time. And the number of deaths also, is very numerous. I am reliably informed that, in a single *kara*, there were as many as 20 deaths this month so far.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know the name of that *kara*?

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MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): At Chembur in Perumkadavila *pakuthi.*

From what I am able to gather, Sir, there are more than 100 deaths every day in these afflicted areas. Further, the disease is spreading over fresh areas in Perumkadavila and Kollayil. I would therefore urge upon the attention of Government that they should lose no time in sending out aid to these poor people. The Public Health Department and the Medical Department, should rush to the spot with the requisite staff, and do their utmost to eradicate this demon. As I have already stated, Sir, the officers of the Public Health Department, who were on duty on the last occasion, put up a strenuous fight against this fell disease. But the scope of their activities was very limited. All that they could do was to administer quinine. I do not know if a resumption of similar activities will suffice this time. Government should immediately open temporary hospitals in convenient centres in these areas, with sufficient number of beds, and with liberal provision for diet. I may also submit that a medicine called atibrin has been tried and found very effective especially in acute cases. The Medical Officer at Neyyattinkara tried this and has met with cent. per cent. success with this medicine. I would therefore request Government to arrange for making use of this medicine now. It is also absolutely necessary that efficient relief work is immediately organised on a larger scale than on the former occasion. In view of the great havoc done by the malaria epidemic during the current year, I thought that Government would be generous enough to make some provision in the budget, for the next year, for special relief works. But, I am sorry to find that they have not had that vision. Anyhow, I do not think that it is too late even now. This is a time when Government should provide amply for relief works.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Relief works of what kind?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): In the shape of public works, mainly roads and other means of communication, improvement of tanks, etc.

In the course of our relief operations, in the affected areas, we found it extremely difficult, Sir, to carry rice and provisions to the poor patients living in the interior. I am sure the authorities of the Public Health Department will testify to that fact. Bags of rice had to be carried as head-loads for long distances. Several of these regions are not easily accessible. This is a matter, Sir, on which Government should bestow immediate attention. It will go a long way to relieve the distress. As I said already, better late than never.

I do not know, Sir, what the Government are now going to say in reply to this motion. It is not unlikely that the officers and staff of the Public Health Department now feel tired after the first spurt of their activities and after their strenuous work during the last few months in these areas. I am sure that, since the Public Health Department has closed its centres of activity, statistics as regards the

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[Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai.]

number of relapses, fresh attacks and deaths are not available to it. I know further that the department has not at present got any staff working in those areas to collect proper statistics. Sir, during the last fortnight, several deaths have occurred from malaria and in some cases the dead bodies, I am told, could not be removed for two or three days, because all the members of the house were down. Several of these deaths, Sir, could have been averted by proper and timely medical aid. Sir, this is not a matter that can wait even for a day. I request Government to take immediate steps and do all that is in their power to save thousands of our brothers and sisters from the grip of a ghastly epidemic.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I would like the official member to enlighten us as to the nature and extent of the present attack, and the distress caused and the measures undertaken by the authorities.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Sir, I rise to support the motion. As a bolt from the blue, this terrible news came to me yesterday from the newspapers, and it was, indeed, heart-rending to hear from my brother member from Neyyattinkara, Mr N. K. Krishna Pillai, that this time the rapidity of infection and the rate of mortality are very much more than it was during the last time. The Public Health Department persuaded us to believe that this fell epidemic will be completely eradicated by the advent of rains. But the rains have come and gone and the results are but terrible. I want to emphasise once more, Sir, with due deference to the learned opinion of the experts, that, after all, this is not the ordinary run of malaria and as such the administering of quinine alone should not be the last word on the matter. I would therefore insist that a better, correct diagnosis of the disease should be made, no matter even if it should entail any additional expenditure. This should be done at least as an experimental measure.

Besides, Sir, to me it seems that the one cause that contributes considerably to the virulence of the attacks is the proverbial poverty of the inhabitants of these regions. Without food, shelter and raiment, no wonder they fall an easy prey to the attack. There is absolutely no use sending a battalion of surgeons and compounders to administer quinine. What is primarily and absolutely necessary is that the Government should do all that is possible to benumb the pangs of hunger of these perishing patients. I know personally, Sir, that so many cases of relapses were due to want of proper nourishment. This will alone be the most effective panacea for the eradication of the disease rather than rendering medical aid, by administering quinine. I must emphasise, Sir, that this is the time for the Government to translate all their professions of charity and compassion into veritable acts of benevolent redemption. Also this is the time, Sir, to inspire confidence in Government's justice and fairplay.

With these few words, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion for the adjournment of the House.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir, I support the motion. Malaria in an epidemic form broke out in the eastern *pakuthies* of Nedumangad taluk some time back. Some five months back the eastern portions of the Vamanapuram and Pullampara pakuthies and the whole of Palode, Arianad, Uzhamalakal, Veeranakavu, Perumkulam and Mannurkara *pakuthies* were affected with malaria. We called for the Medical and Public Health Officers and they readily came to our rescue. They did their level best in order that the infection may be rooted out. The Government also went a great way towards helping the people of the affected area by rendering medical relief to the malaria-stricken people. The Government graciously and nobly contributed money in order to provide food and clothing to them. Sir, now the second stage of the disease has begun and it prevails in a kind of endemic form. Malaria has begun to rage and work havoc amongst the poor people. Some relapses have occurred and even this morning a very respectable elderly gentleman and an old friend of mine, Mr. M. Subramania Pillai, I mean a member of the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly; continously for a period of about 15 or 18 years, told me that amongst his labourers alone 20 or 22 persons died very recently as a result of the attack of malaria.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry I*): Is it 22 persons or 22 per cent ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : 22 persons.

So, from this respectable person I was able to understand that malaria in an endemic form prevails in the eastern *pakuthies* of the Nedumangad taluk. Sir, when it broke out some time back, the Public Health Department opened some medical institutions and clinical centres. For Palode centre and Vidura centre we got separate medical officers. Temporary malarial dispensaries were started, one at Arianad and another at Kallikad. And some time back, Sir, a deputation of some gentlemen from Nedumangad taluk accompanied by myself waited upon the Dewan and submitted a memorial with a view that the Arianad, dispensary must be continued and that it should be confirmed there as an ordinary dispensary. And I am glad to say, Sir, that the Dewan has most sympathetically heard our representations and graciously responded to our request. So, the relief I would now suggest——

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Is it made permanent ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : No, it is not made permanent. Government are trying to make it permanent. The Dewan has promised to permit the dispensary to continue there as a temporary one and to try its usefulness.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : May I say that malaria is not yet permanent ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir, we never wanted that malaria should be made permanent ; but the dispensary started for it is to be made permanent. So far as the eastern *pakuthies* in Nedumangad taluk are concerned, malaria has become a permanent disease, so to say.

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[Mr. S. J. Nayar.]

Sir, that is the reason why the dispensaries at Arianad, and Kallikad, which are only temporary malarial dispensaries, must be permitted to be continued and confirmed as ordinary dispensaries in those places. Persons suffering from malaria in an epidemic form must be treated in these dispensaries and these malaria areas should be very often visited by the medical officers.

With regard to the relief measures, Sir, I would suggest that there is - I cannot say there would be much use—and rather I can say no Government would be in a position to take up the famine relief measure by doling out rice to the poor. The present form of malarial attack is almost in an endemic form ; the relapses are not only due to the malarial fever but also due to the actual poverty. This is the real state of affairs. For solving the malaria problem, we have to solve the poverty problem that prevails amongst the poor people in the taluk. It is not possible for this Government or any other Government to take up famine relief measures in the state of doling out rice, etc. So I would suggest or request the Government, Sir, to see that at least a sum of three lakhs of rupees is allotted immediately, so that some works of public utility may be carried out in Nedumangad, Neyyattinkara and Vilavankod taluks which are malaria-affected areas, so that the malaria disease as well as its causes would be completely wiped out, and further labour can be given to the poor people who are prepared to work. Finally, the relief measure that I would suggest is that, instead of doling out free rice or money, one lakh of rupees for each affected taluk should be allotted. On the whole, I would request the grant of three lakhs of rupees, to open new roads in the affected areas, in order to develop the means of communication in the malaria-affected areas and to provide work for the poor, so that the question of poverty and the absence of labour for the poor in those areas may be overcome.

This is the minimum help that we want immediately and it is not a help tha tcan be postponed. I would request the Government that this allotment of three lakhs of rupees may be made immediately so that the people who are dying like dogs in these areas would be relieved; and moreover, I request the Government, Sir, to see that the medical relief centres that were in existence some time back not only in Arianad and Palode *pakuthies* but in other centres also should be started again and continued and confirmed. In these special centres, the distribution of medicine can be continued afresh. There is another measure which Government should do. If the traces in close proximity with the malaria-stricken arears are made cartable roads and means of communication improved, people of philanthrophic mind can have easy access to these centres and contribute their mite in the form of rendering aid and relief to the poor people. Due to the absence of sufficient means of communication, we are not able to go round and administer relief measures to these people who are suffering from malaria. There are excellent traces in these areas that can be converted into cartable roads. The question that I put to the Government is why not these traces be immediately converted into good roads, so that medical officers as wel

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as those people who are engaged in the work of rendering relief to the suffering may be given an opportunity to go to the interior places to administer relief and aid and the poor people in the interior places can come to the medical relief centres to get medicines. It is highly necessary that some of the traces, I mean, the Kallara-Aruvipuram trace and the extension of the Chittar trace, be converted into good cartable roads. There are various traces in those centres that require to be converted into cartable roads. I am going to give an exact list of those traces which should be converted into cartable roads. I would suggest–

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are there not traces or roads for Kanikars who live in the reserves ?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : No, Sir. They are not in a position to come to medical centres for treatment, due to the absence of good roads. Likewise, the medical officers of the Public Health Department and also the members of the public who are ready to render medical and other reliefs to those poor people afflicted by malaria are not in a position to do so due to the inaccessible nature of the area, wherein the malaria-stricken people are inhabiting. So, the development of the means of communication would solve the poverty as well as malaria problem to a great extent.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I support the motion, and I do so with all the force that I can command. Sir, at the very outset, I should thank the Government as well as the Public Health authorities for having come to the rescue of the malaria-stricken people in the taluks of Nedumangad, Neyyattinkara and Vilavankod. Some time ago, it will be remembered by the honourable members of this House that, in one of the bulletins issued by the Public Health Department, they predicted the calamity which is now the subject-matter of this adjournment motion in this House. In one of the pamphlets, Sir, it was predicted that, though the epidemic will subside for the time being, with the approach of the monsoons and if there is not sufficient rainfall, there will be a recrudescence and a relapse of the disease. Sir, that prediction has now come true.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Did they take any means for preventing such a relapse ?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : No, Sir. That is why this calamity has arisen again.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*) : What did they do after the last epidemic ?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Of course the Public Health authorities were very active immediately after the discussion of the adjournment motion in this House. After some time, thinking that the disease will die out naturally, and finding that the temporary staff was needed elsewhere, they closed down all the treatment centres and left the poor malaria-stricken people to shift for themselves.

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MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): Was there any improvement after they began the treatment?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): There was no appreciable improvement. The number of attacks and deaths was only on the increase from day to day.

Again the closing down of the treatment centres before the disease was completely eradicated was very unwise. They ought to have taken greater precaution and employed more remedial measures. I am sorry to say that they had failed in their duty. A perusal of the registers maintained in the hospitals at Neyyattinkara and Parassala and the Trivandrum General Hospital would show that out of 400 admissions, nearly 300 were malaria patients. Sir, the Parassala District Hospital and the Neyyattinkara District Hospital are the only two Government Medical institutions now working near the affected area. It can thus be seen very clearly that the disease has not subsided but is only on the increase.

The question therefore is what we are to do now with this problem. When a similar motion was discussed here, I pointed out that this is not merely a malaria problem but also a problem of famine relief. The vitality of the people of these affected areas is very low. They are not able to withstand the attack of this dire malady. At the slightest attack, they succumb. They never recover from that prostrate condition. From the manner in which the disease is now spreading, there is no knowing whether Trivandrum itself will be immune from this disease. Even now, there are stray cases in the *pakuthies* adjoining the Trivandrum town. I understand that malaria patients have been admitted into the General Hospital, Trivandrum. We cannot segregate malaria patients. They are moving about from place to place. Naturally they carry the disease with them. Practically, the whole of South Travancore will soon be in the grip of this fell disease. Sir, several Honourable members of this House have referred to the deplorable condition of the people of these parts. Heart-rending tales have been heard of poor people of the lower and middle classes going to hilly tracts in search of food. They take the pith of a tree called *chala* and eat it. They are too poor to get rice or any other article of food! This brings on so many other diseases and they fall victims to malaria, dysentery and similar diseases. Under-nutrition or mal—nutrition causes not only malaria; but cholera has also broken out in certain areas. I came to know that very recently cholera has broken out in Alur. There were sixty deaths. The deaths were mostly among poor Mahommedans, Nadars, and other wage-earners. All this shows that the spread of the disease is due to want of proper diet.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The fact that people die from low vitality is not quite connected with the present motion.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Malaria is only a stage in this.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The wording of the motion is that malaria has broken out in Neyyattinkara taluk and neighbouring places.

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MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I am mentioning this simply to show that people with low vitality are more prone to an attack of malaria.

As a constructive measure, I would suggest to Government that this problem can be solved only by means of three agencies working in full co-ordination with one another. The Public Health authorities must adopt all those measures necessary to prevent the spread of the disease from affected areas to other unaffected areas. Secondly, we want more medical institutions in Neyyattinkara, Vilavankod and Nedumangad. More Hospitals and Dispensaries may be opened on a temporary basis till this disease is completely eradicated from these areas. Thirdly, I should also state that people in these parts have completely lost faith in the treatment by quinine. They think that this only makes them deaf. It does not cure the disease.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) Is the member of opinion that treatment should be accorded according to the faith of the people who are suffering from disease?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Certainly, Sir. Faith has an important place in treatment.

MR. K. MADHAVAN ((*Nominated*): Sir, I rise to support the motion. I do not wish to dilate at length on the subject which has been ably dealt with by other honourable members. I understand that the death-rate is now appalling and people are panic-stricken. I take this opportunity of complimenting the Public Health Department for the very valuable help rendered to the people. As far as I know, malaria was not totally extinguished from the land. There was only a temporary lull and recently there was a virulent outbreak. My esteemed friend, Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai, pointed out that some relief work should be undertaken. I am one with him in thinking that famine in that locality is a serious problem. The people of the locality are in squalid misery and poverty. They have no food. Government should undertake immediate relief measures. There are lots of minor irrigation tanks in the Neyyattinkara taluk. If Government undertake the improvement of these tanks, that will give work to the people and they will be relieved of the present famine conditions. Similarly, Government may take up the construction of a few roads in that locality. That will give relief to the people.

I wish to emphasise the fact that the distribution of medicine is not satisfactory. The Health Department was having treatment centres to which the suffering people had to go and get medicine. In a hilly tract, with homesteads here and there, it is very hard to ask the people to go to the treatment centres and get medicine. Batches of compounders should be asked to go about and distribute medicine from house to house.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Sir, I rise to support the motion. Last time, when we were discussing a similar motion, I congratulated the Public Health Department on the work they were doing.

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[Mr. K. R. Elenkath.]

It is painful to note that this time we the non-official members have to come to the House and give information to the authorities who are groping in darkness with regard to the present epidemic. Their silence indicates that they evidently want to gather information from the non-official members before attempting to speak anything on the matter. The only information available to the House is the data furnished by the mover of the adjournment motion, Mr. N. K. Krishna Pillai. He has stated that the disease this time has assumed such proportions that such a virulent outbreak there never was, and that the victims of the attack have out-numbered the maximum that we had during the last epidemic. Even after the disease had broken out in an epidemic form, the Public Health authorities have to be blamed for not taking any action.

The Government, I think, are not well advised in withdrawing the treatment centres even before ascertaining that all was well at Neyyattinkara.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Does the member know that malaria was due to famine?

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): I will deal with that. The Public Health authorities could have waited some time more for withdrawing the treatment centres That is the main point on which I would condemn the action of the Public Health Department.

It is unfortunate that the victims affected by malaria last time are suffering from relapse in a more severe form. They are entitled to receive all manner of relief from the Government as well as the public at large. We know what amount of enthusiasm the public took in the matter of quelling the disease and alleviating the distress of the famine-stricken patients when the epidemic broke out last time. There were people who even sacrificed their all for their diseased brethren. I doubt very much whether that kind of support will be forthcoming this time from the public. The success attained, whether little or great, last year was all due to the endeavours of the public at large and to the activities of the Public Health authorities.

In regard to Mr. S. J. Nair's observation that famine is the root cause of the disease, I should say, famine contributes to a large extent in aggravating the situation. It cannot be said that, if proper food and nourishment, besides medicine, are administered to the malarial patient, he will recover. But, certainly relapses can be avoided if proper food is given to those who have survived disease. Non-vigilance on the part of the Public Health Department should be attributed to the sudden relapse of malarial cases in the districts which were under their immediate care. It cannot be said that they were ignorant of the seasonal disadvantages which ought to have warned them from withdrawing from the field completely. Seeing that malaria had not subsided, the authorities ought to have taken proper measures and bestowed greater attention in the treatment centres instead of withdrawing the centres. I should strongly urge on the attention of Government that there should be more vigilance this time than before in order to avoid greater calamity and distress in those affected areas.

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DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Sir, the statement made by the honourable members on the other side of the House that malaria has begun in an epidemic form a second time in Neyyattinkara is unfounded. There is no *fresh* attack of malaria either near Neyyattinkara or Nedumangad. It is true there were a few cases last month. So far as my information goes, in the treatment centres many people are not coming as was observed last time.

MR. K. MADHAVAN (*Nominated*): Was it a fact that 17 persons died as a result of malaria very recently?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Nobody has reported to that effect till now.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (*Kunnatnad I*): May I know whether any arrangement was made by the department for reporting such incidents?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Yes. There are revenue authorities to report about it. Neither they nor the Relief Committee have made any reports about it till now.

MR. K. MADHAVAN (*Nominated*): May I know the date on which the last report was received?

DR. M K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): 27-11-1110.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Is not the present attack a continuation of the old epidemic?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): No. This is a relapse.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): May I know what is the basis of the member's observation that there is no fresh attack of malaria?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): We have been collecting statistics till the end of last month, and no fresh cases have been noticed.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): May I tell the member that the observations I have made appertain to the conditions that were prevailing after the close of last month?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): The Relief Committee has not reported about deaths or fresh attacks.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know whether the member has read the article published in the newspapers of recent date that there has begun a serious recrudescence of the attack?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): That was brought to my notice.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Will the member be pleased to take action on it?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Yes.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): Has the member inspected the locality?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Yes.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (*Kunnatnad I*): Was it during last week or before that?

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DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Not during the last two weeks, but proper arrangements have been made to report about the outbreak, if any.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): What was that arrangement, please?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Sanitary Officers were asked to tour round the area and report about fresh cases, if any.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Is the staff still working?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): The whole staff remained till last month. Now there is a Sanitary Circle Officer who is touring round the place. He is a more responsible officer.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is it your point that the Sanitary Circle Officer is a more responsible officer than the Vaccinator?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Yes.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know how many members of the staff are still in the field?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): The Assistant Surgeon of the Health Unit with his subordinate staff and the Sanitary Circle Officers are in the field.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): When was the last report received from the staff?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Last Monday.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Was there any reference in the report about the fresh outbreak of malaria?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): No.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: In the nature of the statement by the official member, no useful purpose can be served by further questions. The members who spoke in support of the motion were maintaining that there has begun a serious recrudescence. On the other hand, there is the official member denying that. As that official member said that statistics have not been collected till the close of last month we shall leave matters there and go no further.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the member has called for reports either from his own subordinates or from the Relief Committee after he saw the article in the newspapers?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): I had called for a report not from the Relief Committee.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether the Relief Committee has dissolved or is still in existence?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): In the affected areas, the revenue authorities are still doing relief work.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): Then why is it that the number of patients now far exceeds the maximum number during last time?

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DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): I beg to submit that it is unfounded.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): How is that?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): The number of patients in the 24 treatment centres was not more than 30 per day.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the member for Neyyattinkara has reported about the recrudescence?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): I am sorry he did not.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): What has the member to say about the reference regarding cholera made by Mr. Narayana Pillai?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is not relevant.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): Is the member speaking about malaria relief or famine relief in Neyyattinkara?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): I am speaking about malaria relief. I can inform the members that there were no fresh infections this month. Every case that came to the treatment centre was diagnosed and found to be malaria and proper treatment was given. The difficulty was that nobody took quinine. If one should be rid of malaria, he should be under quinine treatment for three months.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Is it advisable to take quinine without having sufficient food?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): I have never known any one taking quinine without taking any food.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Is atebrin treatment considered to be more efficacious than quinine treatment?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): That is only in the experimental stage.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Is atebrin injection a more efficacious treatment for malaria?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Atebrin will act more readily than quinine. But the difficulty is about the patients not taking quinine. Every patient on an average takes quinine only for about three days instead of three months. That is a great drawback.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. S. J. Nair's question remains unanswered.

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): As for that, patients can take sufficient food. *Kanji* and tapioca can be used as food.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Was there not a failure of the tapioca crop?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): That is for the Director of Agriculture to answer.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Does the Sanitary Officer send weekly reports or has he been asked to make reports whenever a change is noticed ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) . Proper directions are given to Sanitary Circle Officers to go round the place and ascertain the actual facts and make weekly or even bi-weekly reports as and when the situation demands.

Instead of taking quinine for three months, you will find that on an average no patient has taken quinine for more than three days. That is the reason why there are so may cases of relapse ; and it was indeed a waste of time for the staff of the Public Health Department to wait at 24 centres expecting patients to turn up and to see in the end that nobody turned up. Some of the honourable members suggested that the members of the Public Health Department might have got tired.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I take objection to that form "some Honourable members suggested ".

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : Sir, one honourable member suggested that the members of the Public Health Department got tired. It is not the members of the department but it was the people who got tired of us.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : May I know the reasons ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Probably he is going to say that without being questioned upon.

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : Partly due to ignorance and partly due to the fact that we advise them to take quinine. We found that the mixture that we supplied to them was thrown out of their bottles and they went without medicine and proper treatment. When that is the case, I do not know how the Public Health Department can be found fault with.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*) : Am I to take it that the Public Health Department found it helpless to administer medicine to these patients ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : We tried our best ; we went there to help the people, but they did not avail themselves of the help we offered.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Is it not a part of the duty of the Public Health Department to educate the ignorant people on the use of medicine ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is a matter of opinion. The question may be whether the Public Health Department has been doing it.

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : We have been instructing the people and also advising them and it is as a result of the instruction that the number of patients in the hospital has increased to a very large extent.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : May I know whether malaria poison is really wiped out from Neyyattinkara taluk and its neighbouring places ?

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That question is unnecessary because it is nobody's case. The official member did not say that nor did the non-official member say it.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know whether the Relief Committee, at the time the Department withdrew their staff, requested for the continuance of the staff or raised objection to such withdrawal ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : We withdrew the staff with the consent of the Committee and it was after giving them advice as to further steps that we withdrew from the field. We also informed the Revenue authorities of our intention to recall our men because they were not having sufficient work. Thirty patients for 24 centres means one patient for one dispensary every day. That was waste of Government money and time.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : May I know from the Director whether he proposes to enquire into the allegations of re-crudescence of malaria in Neyyattinkara and if, on enquiry, it is well founded, to deal with it efficaciously ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : Yes ; an investigation is being carried on in Neyyattinkara as to the incidence of malaria there and also in the neighbouring taluks of Vilavankod and Nedumangad.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : That is not the answer to my question.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*) : May I know from the Member whether after the motion was tabled the member made any enquiry as to the present condition of the affair ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : I am calling for a report.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*) : May I know whether a report was called for from the place ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : We are calling for it.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : Has the member tried to ascertain whether the report in the *Malayali* yesterday is true ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : I am calling for a report.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (*Nominated*) : Has the member *tried*, that is my question.

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : The matter is engaging my attention.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : May I know from the member the extent of the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Circle Officer of the Neyyattinkara taluk who has been asked to report ?

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DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : There are two sanitary Circle Officers. The jurisdiction of the Sanitary Circle Officer of Kuzhittura extends from Kulasekharam up to Ottasekharamangalam and the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Circle Officer of Trivandrum extends from Ottasekharamangalam to Vamanapuram.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*) : Sir, has not the member exceeded his time ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Many questions were asked and so he has been given more time.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know from the Government how many days or weeks one Sanitary Circle Officer would take to travel round the places from Ottasekharamangalam to Vamanapuram in order to enquire into the situation in those places ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : In these days of rapid communication, I think, he can go very well in a day or two.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the member is aware that patients are lying in the interior portions of the land without any means of communication to go to those places ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : There are some chronic patients among the *kanikars* there.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*) : The member said that, before closing the treatment centres, the Health Department informed the Relief Committee of the fact. May I know who was informed ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*) : The representative of the Health Department was on the spot. The Medical Officer in charge was a member of the Committee and I was informed that he had already communicated the intentions of the department to the members of the Committee.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know whether the member has looked into the hospital figures after the withdrawal of the Public Health Department staff ?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Helth*) : Yes. The Department is getting reports every week from the hospitals and it will be found that the numbers are increasing in the hospitals as we were advising all the malarial patients to go to hospitals lest they should get relapses. Some people have taken our advice and they are going to the hospital regularly.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Is it a fact that malaria patients prefer hospital treatment to the treatment at the centres ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is a matter of opinion.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I put a question "Is it a fact ?" (*Laughter*).

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No doubt, the word 'fact' is there, but it is actually asking for opinion.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): May I know from the member, in view of the attitude of the patients at Neyyattinkara, whether the member entertains any hope of eradicating malaria poison from Neyyattinkara?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): It is proposed to go into the matter according as the situation demands.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I wish to ask a question, whether the official member has given his opinion based merely on the strength of the reports received from the subordinate officers.

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): My opinion is based on official reports from officers who are competent to make such reports.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Did not the member himself visit the place and try to understand the situation?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): I had visited all the affected places towards the end of last month and I propose to visit again shortly.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Is the number of attacks this month much smaller than last month?

DR. M. K. GOPALA PILLAI (*Director of Public Health*): Much smaller.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): ഈ അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയത്തിൽ അന്തർലീനമായ് രിക്കുന്ന സംഗതിയുടെ പ്രാധാന്യംകൊണ്ടാണ് ഞാൻ ഇതിനെ അനുക്രലിക്കുന്നതു്. മലമ്പനിയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചേടത്തോളം ഞാൻ കേട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു ഭക്ഷണം കഴിക്കുവാൻ നിവർത്തിയില്ലാത്ത സാധുക്കളെയാണു് ഇതു പനി ധാരാളമായി ബാധിക്കുന്നതെന്നാണു്. പട്ടിണിയാണ് ഈ മലമ്പനിയുടെ പ്രധാനകാരണമെങ്കിൽ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തിൽ അടങ്ങിയിട്ടുള്ള കായ്യം നെടുമങ്ങാട്ടോ നെയ്യാറിൻകരയോ ഉള്ള പ്രത്യേക കായ്യമല്ലെന്നും തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ ഒട്ടുക്കു ബാധിക്കുന്ന ഒരു പൊതുക്കായ്യമാണെന്നും ഓർക്കേണ്ടതാണു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ എവിടെ അന്വേഷിച്ചാലും പട്ടിണി ധാരാളമായി കാണുന്നുണ്ടു്.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): അവിടെയൊക്കെ മലമ്പനിയും ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): പട്ടിണിയാണ് മലമ്പനിയുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതെങ്കിൽ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ എല്ലായിടത്തും മലമ്പനി ഉണ്ടാകാൻ ഇടയുണ്ടെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Varughese, the question before the House is the outbreak of malaria a second time in a more virulent form in a certain taluk. Therefore the general question of malaria and the general question of famine do not arise.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : ഇത് നെടുമങ്ങാട്ടും നെയ്യാറ്റിൻകരയും മാത്രമുള്ള കാര്യമാണെങ്കിൽ തന്നെയും അവിടെ പട്ടിണികിടക്കുന്ന ആളുകളെ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് കണ്ണുതുറന്നു സഹതാപബുദ്ധിയോടുകൂടി നോക്കി അവിടെ ബാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പട്ടിണിയെ ഇല്ലായ്മചെയ്യുകയും രോഗബാധിതരാകാതിരിപ്പാൻ എന്തെല്ലാം ചെയ്യാമോ അതെല്ലാം ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവൺമെൻറിനെ ഉത്ബോധിപ്പിച്ചു കൊള്ളുന്നു.

നെയ്യാറ്റിൻകര, നെടുമങ്ങാട് മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിൽ മലമ്പനിയും പട്ടിണിയുംകൊണ്ട് ജനങ്ങൾ മരിക്കുന്നു എന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻററിയുകയും അതിനു യാതൊരു പരിഹാരവും ചെയ്യാതിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ജനസംഖ്യ വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു കുറെഎണ്ണം പട്ടിണിയും മലമ്പനിയും കൊണ്ടെങ്കിലും ചത്തൊഴിയട്ടെ എന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറ് വിചാരിക്കുന്നതുപോലെ തോന്നിപ്പോകുന്നു.

MR. A. ESWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*) : പട്ടിണികൊണ്ടാണോ മലമ്പനി ബാധിക്കുന്നത്?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : അതിനെപ്പറ്റി മുമ്പു പറഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു.

MR. A. ESWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*) : മെമ്പർ താമസിക്കുന്നതാലൂക്കിൽ മലമ്പനിയുണ്ടോ?

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : എല്ലാ താലൂക്കിലും ഉണ്ട്. പട്ടിണി കിടന്ന് ആരോഗ്യത്തിനും ബലത്തിനും ക്ഷയം വരുമ്പോൾ മലമ്പനിയുടെ വിഷബീജങ്ങൾ ശരീരത്തിൽ ആക്രമിക്കുകയും തൽമൂലം ഈ മഹാമാരി പടർന്നുപിടിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. നിവർത്തിയില്ലാത്ത സാധുക്കളേയും രോഗപീഡിതരേയും സഹായിക്കുകയല്ലേ ഈ ധർമ്മരാജ്യമായ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൻറെ പ്രധാനധർമ്മം അതുകൊണ്ടു പട്ടിണിനിമിത്തം വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഈ ഭയങ്കരവിപത്തിനെ ഇല്ലായ്മചെയ്യുന്നതിനു ബുദ്ധിപൂർവ്വകമായ നിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ രാജ്യത്തിൻറെ ഒരറ്റംവരെ നടത്തി സാധുക്കളെ മരണത്തിൽനിന്നും രക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതു ഗവർമ്മേൻറിൻറെ മുമതലയാണെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി വിനയത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻറെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നേയുള്ളൂ. ആതക്കസമയത്തു് ഈ

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ത്തെയ്യാതിരുന്നാൽ പട്ടിണികിടന്ന് അനേകായിരം ജനങ്ങൾ മരിച്ചു പോകാനിടയുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി ഗവർമ്മേൻറ് പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അതിനാൽ ഒരു മിന്നിട്ടുപോലും താമസിക്കാതെ ഇതു് കണ്ട് അടിയന്തിരക്കായ്മായി പരിഗണിച്ചു വേണ്ട നിവാരണമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള അപേക്ഷയോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI (*Nominated*): സർ, ഈ അടിയന്തിരപ്രമേയത്തെ ഞാനും അനുകമ്പയോടുകൂടി അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങൾ രണ്ടാമതും അസഹ്യമായ മലമ്പനിപിടിപെട്ട കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നു എന്നുള്ള വർത്തമാനം ഈ സഭയിൽ ആർക്കാണ് ഏറ്റവും കണ്ണുകോരമായി തോന്നാതിരിക്കുന്നതു്. നാലഞ്ചുമാസത്തിനുമുൻപു നെടുമങ്ങാട്, നെയ്യാറ്റിൻകര മുതലായ താലൂക്കുകളിലുള്ള പലസ്ഥലങ്ങളിലുംതന്നെ മലംപനി ഉണ്ടാകുകയും തൽഫലമായി അനേകമാളുകൾ മൃതിയടയുകയും ചെയ്തു എന്നുള്ള വസ്തുത നമ്മിൽ ഓരോരുത്തരുടേയും സ്മൃതിപഥത്തിൽനിന്നും മാഞ്ഞുപോയിട്ടില്ലല്ലൊ. ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട തിരുവല്ലാ മെമ്പർ മിസ്റ്റർ എൻ. ഈ. വർഗ്ഗീസ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതുപോലെ പൊതുവെ ദാരിദ്ര്യം ജനങ്ങളെ അസാമാന്യമായി പീഡിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ദാരിദ്ര്യപീഡ ഉണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ എണ്ണമില്ലാത്ത രോഗങ്ങൾ വന്നുചേരുന്നതു് സാധാരണയാണ്. ദാരിദ്ര്യംകൊണ്ടു കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്ന അനേകായിരംജനങ്ങൾ മിഥുനം കർക്കടകം എന്നീമാസങ്ങളിൽ പലതരത്തിലുള്ള സുഖക്കേടുകൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. പ്രസ്തുതതാലൂക്കുകളിലുള്ള ആളുകൾ വീണ്ടും മലംപനി പിടിപെട്ടു കഷ്ടപ്പെടുന്നു എന്നുള്ള വിവരം രണ്ടുമൂന്നു ദിവസങ്ങളായി വർത്തമാനപത്രങ്ങൾമുഖേന എല്ലാവരും അറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതാണല്ലോ. ഈ വർത്തമാനത്തിൽനിന്നും ജനങ്ങൾ എത്രത്തോളം സങ്കടപ്പെടുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു് ഏതാണ്ടു മനസ്സിലാക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. ഈ ഭീകരമാരിയെ എത്രയും വേഗം നിവാരണം ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. കണക്കു പരിശോധിച്ചു നോക്കുന്നതായാൽ നിശ്ചയമായും സാധുക്കളായ സാമാന്യജനങ്ങളും അധഃകൃതവർഗ്ഗത്തിൽപെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ആളുകളുമാണ് കൂടുതൽ മരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നുള്ള വിവരം മനസ്സിലാക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. അധികം കഷ്ടത അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവരും സാധുക്കൾതന്നെയാണ്. കഷ്ടതയും ദാരിദ്ര്യദുഃഖവും അനുഭവിക്കുന്നവരാണ് രോഗപീഡയും സാധാരണയായി വരാറുള്ളതു്. കഴിഞ്ഞപ്രാവശ്യം

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[Mr. T. T. Kesavan Sastri.]

മലമ്പനി പിടിപെട്ട പീഡിതരായ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ഹെൽത്തുയൂണിറ്റുകാരും ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ടനമ്മുടെ ഗവർമ്മെൻറും വേണ്ടിടത്തോളം സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങൾ ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട് എന്നുള്ള സംഗതി നന്ദിപൂർവ്വം അനുസ്മരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഈ മഹാമാരി വീണ്ടും മേല്പറഞ്ഞ താലൂക്കുകളിലുള്ള ജനങ്ങളെ പൊതുവെ പിടികൂടിയിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നുള്ളതു ഭയനീയമായിട്ടുള്ളതാകുന്നു. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും അതുരരായ ഈ സാധുക്കൾക്കു വേണ്ട സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു് ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഹെൽത്ത് യൂണിറ്റിന്റെ മാത്രമല്ല ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റേയും സതാല്പര്യശ്രദ്ധ പതിയേണ്ടതാണ്. പൊതുജനക്ഷേമത്തെ ലാക്കാക്കി ഗവർമ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ചെയ്യേണ്ട സഹായസഹകരണങ്ങൾ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു് അപായപ്പെട്ടുള്ളവരിലാണ് അത്യാവശ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതെന്നുള്ള വിവരം ഗവർമ്മെൻറു സദാ ഓർക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അതിനാൽ സകലരുടേയും ശ്രദ്ധയെ ഒരുപോലെ ആകർഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈ മലേറിയാ മഹാരോഗത്തെ ഉൻമൂലനാശം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി ഗവർമ്മെൻറു ഉടനെ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുമെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഇങ്ങിനെ ഒരു അടിയന്തരപ്രമേയം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചു് ഒരു സഭയുടെയും ഗവർമ്മെൻറിന്റേയും സതാല്പര്യശ്രദ്ധയെ ആകർഷിക്കുന്നതിനു തയ്യാറായ ബഹുമാന്യനായ നെയ്യാറ്റിൻകര മെമ്പർ എൻ. കെ. കൃഷ്ണപിള്ള അവർകളെ അഭിനന്ദിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഒരു പ്രമേയത്തെ ശക്തിപൂർവ്വം അനുകൂലിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Sir, I wish to make a few observations on the motion before the House. I fully sympathise with the people affected by malaria in the Neyyattinkara taluk and in the adjacent places. Sir, I draw the attention of the Public Health Department to the matter of taking effective measures as early as possible to combat this epidemic. In this connection, I may also bring to the attention of the department the recent outbreak of cholera in the village of Aloor in the Kalkulam taluk.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Not that the Chair is unsympathetic, but I say this is not the occasion to deal with the cholera question. You can write and get information from the Director about this.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): The Director was kind enough to give me some information on the point. But I wish to know more about that on the floor of this House.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Sir, as has been observed by the Director of the Public Health Department, Neyyattinkara and many parts of the Vilavankod have conditions necessary for the development

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of malaria in an epidemic form. The second outbreak is due to two causes. One is the extraordinary seasonal condition and the other is lack of vitality among the people.

Sir, the staple food of the people of these taluks is tapioca. During the last two years, on account of the low price of tapioca, poor people did not cultivate it as the price of paddy was low. Now the price of paddy having risen and tapioca not being available, there is real distress among them. Therefore what the Government ought to do is to organise relief centres in all the places in the interior of these two taluks.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : What about the Nedumangad Taluk ?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : The need for this is equally urgent in Nedumangad also. Then again, Sir, the appointment of Medical Officers here and there is not going to serve any effective purpose. The Department should engage a motor car, stock it with medicine and distribute it to the affected people. Then only real medical aid will reach all the places.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : Can they reach all the parts of the taluks ?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Almost all the parts of the taluks. Sir, I would press this question of taking immediate relief works on the Government. Large amounts of money are earmarked for starting large scale productions as rubber industry, hydro-electric works, etc. But Sir, the problem of relieving starvation and disease in these taluks being a more serious one, Government should find a way to relieve the suffering by spending a substantial sum in this direction.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is very unfortunate that this House has again to discuss this serious problem of malaria. It was during the last session of both this House and the other House that the question was discussed at length, and at that time, on behalf of Government, I said that Government would do all that was necessary to combat this epidemic. My friend Mr. Krishna Pillai has admitted that Government did keep the promise and did all that was possible. Treatment centres were opened at different places, dispensaries were established and ample provision was made for affording relief to the starving people. The money required for the supply of provisions to the poor people was partly contributed by Government and partly raised by public subscriptions. All possible measures, honourable members will admit, were taken in dealing with the serious situation that then existed. After some time, reports were received to the effect that the epidemic was subsiding and it was really a piece of glad news for the Government to know that the menace was almost dying out. It was only yesterday that I happened to read in a newspaper that there occurred again some deaths on account of malaria in some parts of Neyyattinkrra. My friend

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Mr. Krishna Pillai says that there is a second outbreak. It may be that this is only the tail-end, as it were, of the previous outbreak. For my part, I can neither assert nor deny that there is a second outbreak of malaria. It may be that it has broken out again in some places.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I want to make one point clear. The official member in charge of the subject is Dr. Gopala Pillai; and of course he has been speaking on behalf of Government. The Chief Secretary is now making a statement. I suppose this is also made on behalf of Government.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, Sir. I am making this statement on behalf of Government. I can neither assert that the malaria has again broken out nor deny it. All that I can say is that reports have appeared in the newspapers of a few deaths on account of malaria in some parts of Neyyattinkara. It may be that the Director has not received any official report about them through his subordinates, or it may be that the situation is not so serious as is depicted in the newspapers. This is a matter for enquiry.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Did the Government try to ascertain the facts?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was only last evening that I came to know of it. The Government will ask the Director to proceed to the places mentioned in the newspapers to see whether there is a second outbreak and whether it is a serious outbreak, and, if so, what measures should be taken. I can assure my friend, Mr. Krishna Pillai, that Government will do this. The report which appeared in the newspapers may be an exaggerated one. One or two persons might have died, and the news might have been flashed off in bold prints to attract the attention of the Government and the people. The honourable members might have been carried away by the glaring headlines in the newspapers. All that I say is that the matter has to be enquired into. Government will certainly ask the Director to proceed to the place to enquire into the matter and, if there is any serious outbreak again, to suggest measures that ought to be taken to combat this outbreak.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know the nature of relief measures Government intend taking?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That depends upon the situation.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That question does not arise now. Government have promised to ascertain facts first.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): If it is found necessary to supply provisions to the poor suffering people, Government will certainly make the necessary arrangements.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether it would not be better to start treatment centres first?

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is a matter of opinion.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Well, Sir, if a patient is actually starving, it is better to give him food first. Moreover this will be decided after knowing how the situation stands at present. All that I can say is that Government will make the necessary enquiries and do whatever is necessary. I can also assure the honourable members that Government will not remain indifferent, if people are dying in hundreds is reported in the newspapers, and that all possible efforts will be made to meet the situation that has arisen.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): Sir, I am really glad that the Chief Secretary, on behalf of Government, has given us the assurance that the matter will be promptly looked into. At the same time I have to observe, in regard to some remarks made by the Director of Public Health, that his statements are really astounding. It was news to me, Sir, to hear him saying that the Relief Committee did not inform his Department of the present situation. I question that statement. Even otherwise, what is the duty of the Department I ask. Sir, my motion relates to the situation prevailing after the closing down of the treatment centres on the last day of Mithunam. The observations made by the Director of Public Health make it clear that his department has made absolutely no enquiry into the conditions after Mithunam. The Director of Public Health told us, Sir, that some Sanitary Officer sent up a report that there were no fresh attacks there. From his own statement, Sir, it is clear that the Sanitary Circle Officer or any other blessed officer has not gone to these areas: and the Director himself has not been able to tell us when he visited these places last. The only inference possible, from the information that he has been able to give us now, is that his department does not know of the real situation and that the Director has no basis whatever for his statement that conditions are now as good as they were.

Another queer observation was also made by the Public Health Director. He said that the Relief Committee was informed in time of the closing of the treatment centres. As President of the Committee, I challenge that statement and assert that no formal information was communicated to us.

MR. K. SANKARAN (*Kartikapalli I*): Was there informal talk about it?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*) : No, not even that.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): May I ask whether the member had sufficient reasons to bring forward this motion?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That question is inadmissible.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : May I ask how the member proposes to reconcile his statement that the situation is really bad with he statement by the Public Health Director that it is not so?

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is going too far. You cannot ask Mr. Krishna Pillai to do that.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*) : May I ask the member whether he has obtained his information from reliable sources ?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*) : I can assure the member that I base my observations on my personal enquiry and from reports from very reliable sources.

I am really disappointed, Sir, at the unfounded and misleading observations made by the Director of Public Health. But, in view of the assurance given by the Chief Secretary, I do not mean to press my motion. I trust that the Government will do all that is necessary, and that immediately.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : It is past 5 o' clock. The House will now adjourn *sine die*.

The House adjourned at 5-30 P. M.

K. MADHAVA KURUP,

Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly

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